5: Dorsey & Murie E,I-5 (1903-1907) 1940
NQ18 Pawnee NQ18

V. THE INDIVIDUAL

According to Pawnee standards, a successful life depended not only on the inheritance of an elevated social position, but also on individual initiative. From the beginning, a man looked upon his life's career as a contest whose outcome depended upon his own efforts. Success was a matter of industry, of honesty in dealing with other members of his society, of zeal in the hunt and upon the warpath, and of maintaining satisfactory relations with the deities. He had to work and fight constantly in this life for whatever he obtained.

Likewise, a woman must keep her lodge clean, and be honest, industrious in the fields, successful in the rearing of a family, and careful to observe the restrictions imposed on her conduct. In return for this, her days would be comfortable, the birth of her children would be without pain, and a definite place would await her in the life after death.

Periods of Life

The Skidi recognized five distinct periods or epochs in the life history of an individual of either sex. For the male these periods were as follows: (1) *Pirau*. This means "child," or more properly, "baby," carried no distinction of sex, and was applicable only to a child during the nursing period. (2) *Piruski*, "boy." This term covered the period from the termination of childhood to the age of puberty. The word *pisiks*, "covered up" (closed-foreskin), was also used as a nickname for a boy of this period, referring to the fact that he had not yet had connection with women. (3) *Pitisutki*. This term was applied to a boy after he had reached the age of puberty but had not yet married, and means "grown or straight up." (4) *Pita*. This referred to the period after marriage until old age, and is the general term for "man." (5) *Kurahus*, meaning "old man," was applicable to that period of a man's life when he no longer took active part in the hunt or went out with the warriors.

The corresponding names for the female were: (1) *Pirau*. (2) *Tcoraki*, "girl." (3) *Tcoras*. This corresponded to the third period of the man; that is, the period after reaching puberty and extending up to marriage. (4) *Tcapat*, "woman" (blood-from-delivery), especially referred to the fact that she had given birth. (5) *Tcostit* applied to all women after the menopause.